huge global and domestic markets for knitted goods; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) ,and (b) Government have taken a number of steps in the recent past to modernise Textile industry including the Hosiery sector which include facilitating import of sophisticated machinery without licensing requirements, import of second-hand machinery without licensing requirements subject to certain conditions, introduction of Export Promotion (Capital Goods) Scheme under which Capital goods could be imported at concessional duty of 15% and 25% subject to appropriate export obligation etc.

Non-payment of dues to the cotton cooperatives

3564. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cotton cooperatives had supplied cotton to the N.T.C. Mills;

(b) whether it is also a fact N.T.C. has not yet paid dues to these cotton cooperatives; and

(c) if so, by when these dues are likely to be cleared by the N.T.C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the dues have not been cleared.

(c) Since cotton is purchased by NTC mills on credit terms, at any given point of time there are bound to be certain outstanding for payment. It is expected that as adequate are received by NTC, as part of the Turn Around strategy, NTC Mills would be able to clear most of its dues.

पाकिस्तान से कपास का आयात

3565. **श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर:** क्या **वस्त्र** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अनेक गणमान्य नेताओं और किसान संगठनों ने सरकार का ध्यान मार्च-अप्रैल, 1992 के दौरान पाकिस्तान से कपास की लगभग तीन लाख गांठ आयात करने की ओर दिलाया है और पाकिस्तान से आयात पर प्रतिबंध लगाने और भारतीय कपास निगम द्वारा पंजाब, हरियाणा और गंगानगर (राजस्थान) से बड़े पैमाने पर उचित मूल्य पर कपास की खरीद किए जाने की मांग की है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस संबंध में अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की है?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अशोक गहलोत): (क) जी हां।

(ख) हथकरघा क्षेत्र की आवश्यकता को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने अप्रैल, 1992 में कताई मिलों में आयात शुल्क के बिना कपास की 2 लाख गाठों के आयात की अनुमति दी थी। तथापि कपास की घरेलू तथा अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कीमत परिस्थिति के कारण कोई आयात नहीं हो सका। फिर भी कपास के आयात की अनुमति मौजूदा आयात-निर्यात नीति के अनुसार सूती यार्न / फैब्रिक और मेड अप्स के निर्यात के आधार पर अग्रिम लाइसेंस योजना के अन्तर्गत दी जाती है। सी सी आई भी मौजूदा बाजार दर पर पंजाब, हरियाणा और गंगानगर (राजस्थान) के बराबर की खरीददारी करता है।

Purchase of Jute in Assam

3566. SHRI MATANG SING: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that jute growers of Assam could not sell their jute produce this year through the Agents of JCI as JCI did not purchase jute from the growers at different sale centres in the State.

(b) the amount allocated to the JCI for purchasing jute in different sale centres in the State like Kharupetia in Darrang district, Dhing in Nagon district, Gauripur in Dhubri district and Barpeta in Barpeta district this year;

(c) whether Government are aware that jute growers had to sell their produce to private traders at a very low price and jute growers are being discouraged for production of Jute and production is likely to be decreased next year as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to purchase jute produce from the growers directly and to allot more money than the previous year for procurement of jute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) Government already guarantees the margin money requirements of Jute Corporation of India (JCI) in order to enable it to conduct price support operations and also reimburses the losses, if any, that may be incurred by JCI in such operations, for which adequate funds are provided to JCI.

JCI was sat up in 1971 to protect the interests of jute growing farmers by undertaking price support operations in the eventuality of fall in prices of raw jute below minimum support levels. JCI has in association with its agents, purchased 3 18,500 quintals of raw jute in Assam upto 1.12.92.

Opening of Silk Depots in Azamgarh and Mau District of Uttar Pradesh

3567. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any requests have been received by Government for opening of Silk Depots at headquarters of Azamgarh and Mau Districts of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on these requests; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) Sericulture is basically a state subject and as such the silK depots for the supply of silk yarn are run/opened by the concerned agencies of the State Governments. The question of opening of silk depots at the HQs of Azamgarh & Mau district is thus required to be considered by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

In so far as Government of India is concerned, it promotes research & development activities in the silk sector under the aegis of Central Silk Board and also under takes formulation of policies for overall growth of this sector. Through its policy measures it also intervenes from time to time to improve the availability of silk yarn in the country. The Central Silk Board has already established a net-work of its units in Uttar Pradesh to supplement the efforts of the State Government for development of sericulture in the State. Besides, an intensive sericulture project involving an outlay of Rs. 7.18 crores has recently been sanctioned by the Government of India for implementation by the Central Silk Board in collaboration with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Growth of Textile Industry

3568. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recession in the global market is affecting the growth of textile industry in the Country; and

(b) if so, what measures Government are taking for export of textile goods to various countries on a competitive rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Textile exports from India are showing healthy growth trend in the current year and do not appear to have been unduly affected by recession in the global market.